



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. (0320-0015) HOOV 115

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Michael D. Hooven

Serial No.: 10/015,346

Filed: December 12, 2001

Group Art No.: 3739

Examiner: Rosiland S. Kearney

For: TRANSMURAL ABLATION DEVICE
WITH CURVED JAWS

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FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. A copy of each of the documents is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

No inference should be drawn that any method disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document, herein is not to be construed as an

admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

This Fourth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits but before a final action or an action that closes prosecution. However, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2), it is hereby stated: no item of this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the best knowledge of the person signing this certification after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to filing of this information disclosure statement. Consequently, as provided in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) a fee under §1.17(p) is not required for the filling of this information disclosure. However, if it is

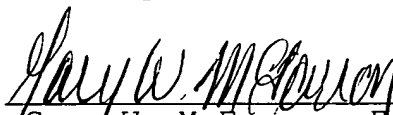
determined that an additional fee is required, then authorization is hereby granted to charge Deposit Account 50-1039 any additional fee required.

(A duplicate of this document is enclosed herewith.)

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 12, 2003

By:



Gary W. McFarron, Esq.
Registration No. 27,357

Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo,
Cummings & Mehler, Ltd.
200 West Adams St., Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606
Telephone: (312) 236-8500

Attorneys for Applicant